Government of Orissa have advised shifting of the Project to another suitable site outside Orissa.

(c) An expenditure of Rs 26.55 crores has been incurred on the Project till October, 1989.

Steps to check rise in prices of essential commodities

*77 SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the price situation in the country; if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to check rise in prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether any directives have been issued to the various Ministries and Departments concerned; if so, in what form and whether they are time-bound; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating a package of measures, including fiscal measures, to control price escalation if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) The Government accords the highest priority to the control of inflation. A Cabinet Committee on Prices has been appointed to review the price situation and take necessary steps in this direction. The measures to control price rise include removing imbalances in demand and supply of essential commodities, mopping up excess liquidity in the economy and vigorous enforcement of existing laws against hoarding and profiteering. The appointment of the Committee will ensure timely and quick action by the concerned agencies of the Government.

Settlement of Cauvery Dispute

*78 SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state what action Government propose to take on the proposal submitted by the late Chief Minister, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, to refer the long standing Cauvery dispute on Tribunal in order to settle it amicably and to rehabilitate the farmers/peasants of Tanjore region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA): The matter is under consideration.

Ban on the use of colours in food and confectinary items

*79. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have banned the use of colours in food and confectionary items;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Confederation of Indian Food and Trade Industry have requested Government to review the matter; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTSR OF TEXTILE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Out of 11 permitted synthetic food colours in specific food items under the provisions of prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to ban 3 synthetic colours, namely (1) Amarnth, (2) Fast Red E and (3) Green S. Maximum limit of synthetic colours to be used in specific food items is also proposed to be reduced from the existing limit of 200 mg/kg. to 100 mg/kg. Use of synthetic colours in food articles generally consumed by children is also recommended to be discontinued Accordingly, a draft notification has been issued vide G.S.R. 851 (E) dated 26th September, 1989 for inviting comments and enclosed herewith as statement. (*See* below).